

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee
May 8, 2006

Committee Members Present: Matthew Johnston, John Carr, Roxanne Thomas, Ryan Barth, Dan Hughes, Keith Stobel

Staff: Susan Golub

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

Public Comment – Pre-Meeting There was none.

Membership

Ryan Barth was made a new member of the Committee. Members Mike Shaughnessy, Gareth Roe, Robin Hoff and Micah Shapiro are no longer members.

Project Updates

Skateboard Park Master Plan: John reported that the Task Force working on the Skateboard Park Master Plan went on 2 field trips to see skateparks, visiting 6 in the north end and 7 in the south. The consultants working on the Master Plan, Arai Jackson, attended the north tour.

Three public meetings will be held in June regarding the Master Plan:

- June 14 from 7-9p.m. at the Rainier Community Center
- June 15 from 7-9 p.m. at the Southwest Community Center
- June 17 from 10-12a.m. at the Green Lake Library.

At the public meetings the consultants will present criteria for siting skateparks and potential locations. They will be soliciting feedback from the community at the 3 meetings.

Open House at Ballard Skatepark: Scott Shinn is organizing an open house at the Ballard skatepark with the goal of giving people an idea of what a skatepark is like. The open house is from 12-3p.m. on Saturday, June 24. There will be a skateboarding tournament, videos, barbecue and information booths. Scott will be advertising the open house at the 3 Master Plan public meetings, as well as through skate-related web sites and other outlets.

Seattle Center Skatepark Replacement: Susan reported that the consultant's report analyzing where the Seattle Center skatepark should go has not been released to the public. She will e-mail the committee as soon as it is a public document.

Lower Woodland Skatepark: Susan reported that Lower Woodland was moving ahead, with the goal to go out for bid on the project in July, with a possible December opening. The State IAC grant that was recently awarded to the project will be the subject of a separate public information process in the fall.

Kaboom Project: Susan reported that the non-profit organization, Kaboom, was interested in funding a modular skatepark project in Seattle. Kaboom has a donor who wants to donate the skate features; the City needs to find a site, and Kaboom will work with local groups to bring together volunteers to build the skatepark. Susan raised the issue of the need for a public process to identify a site, and Committee

members raised concerns about modular features. They noted that they often are unskateable, can be dangerous, and we might be better off with no skatepark, rather than a modular one.

It was concluded that Susan would find out from Kaboom exactly who the vendor is, would report back to the Committee by e-mail, and then solicit their feedback about pursuing the Kaboom project.

SPAC Recipe Project

The Committee discussed the SPAC recipe project – the information source for skatepark building. Ryan volunteered to edit the draft document to be appropriate for kids and will try it out with some when the editing is completed. Matt stated that he will continue working on the fundraising and community support sections, with help from Kim and her contact list.

There was a discussion about whether the document had to be comprehensive and include all of the information down to the smallest detail, or whether the details could be referenced in links. John suggested that the document should be short, preferably a one-pager, with the more in-depth information elsewhere. Committee consensus agreed to this approach. In addition, there was agreement that the language be simple and fun, and that it include strategies for getting people active and supportive. It was noted that the document should include a “steps” list, or road map. This could be in the back-up information, not in the one pager.

Ryan offered to prepare a first draft and will circulate for review by other Committee members.

Outreach

SPAC is interested in pursuing outreach and programming activities at skateparks. The open house at Ballard that Scott Shinn is planning is one example. Matt remarked that in addition to outreach events, events or parties just for skateboarders should be organized, like the Skate Jam event. SPAC would like to develop an outline for the types of programming that can occur, such as a skateschool. Susan will try and get Parks programming staff to attend the next SPAC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.